AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

At page 16, line 1, please replace the description of FIG. 7A with the following paragraph:

--**FIG. 7A. Amino acid sequence of mouse mutant J-Toll-4 (SEQ ID NO: 104), mouse N-Toll-4 (SEQ ID NO: 99), rat TLR-4 (SEQ ID NO: 6) and human TLR-4 (SEQ ID NO: 2).** The mutant mouse J-toll TLR-4 amino acid sequence contains a point mutation at residue 712 (proline to histidine), not found in the amino acid sequences of N-Toll-4, rat TLR-4 or human TLR-4. The numbering system in this figure does not take into account the spacing to maximize the sequence alignment.--

C1

At page 18, line 4, please replace the description of FIG. 14 with the following paragraph:

--**FIG. 14. Schematic illustration of recombinant proteins expressed in RAW 264.7 cells.** Constructs were made by PCR, using cDNA derived from C3H/HeJ and C3H/HcN mice. The primers (5'_3'):

ATC GAT ACC AGG AGG CTT GAA TCC C (SEQ ID NO: 100)

and

TAT CGA TAC CAG GAA GCT TGA ATC CC (SEQ ID NO: 101)

were used to generate the full-length amplified products, which were cloned into the vector pFLAG-CMV-1 (Sigma) using ClaI and KpnI sites. The native signal peptide was thus removed, and an alternative signal peptide, followed by the flag sequence, was provided by the vector. The ectodomain construct was produced using the downstream primer (5'_3'):

C2

CAG GGT ACC TCA CAG GTG AAA ATA GAA GTG GTA T (SEQ ID NO: 102),